

Application No.: 10/065,646

Docket No.: JCLA9503

REMARKS**Present Status of the Application**

It is noted with great appreciation that the Office Action considers 1-23 as being allowed. In addition, the Office Action has objected to claims 1-23 because of informalities and rejected claims 24-28 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Gocho et al. (US 5,498,565).

In response thereto, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 11 to correct the editorial errors according to the Examiner's suggestions. Applicants have also cancelled claims 24-28 without disclaimer, prejudice or waiver. It is believed that no new matter has been added to the application by the amendments made to the claims or otherwise in the application.

Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 1-23 remain pending in the present application. Applicants have cancelled the aforementioned claims merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of these cancelled claims in a continuing application, if Applicants so choose.

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth hereinbefore, Applicants respectfully submit that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, accommodated and/or rendered moot, and that the now pending claims 1-23 are in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic

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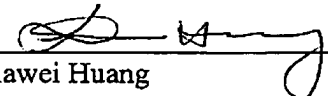
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conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Date: 12 / 8 / 2004

4 Venture, Suite 250
Irvine, CA 92618
Tel.: (949) 660-0761
Fax: (949)-660-0809

Respectfully submitted,
J.C. PATENTS


Jiawei Huang
Registration No. 43,330